



Air Power Dominates the Skies

During the Korean War, offensive American air operations were confined to the Korean Peninsula. Despite this limitation, the United States Air Force took control of the skies so decisively that other United Nations Command forces could fight without fear of air attack. American air power also provided effective close-air support to United Nations Command ground forces, with over 40 percent of tactical air support missions flown by United States Navy and Marine Corps aircraft. Although the Air Force and its sister services were not prepared for this conflict, they responded rapidly and effectively, challenging the North Koreans and, later, the Chinese from the first to the last days of the war.

The Interceptors



These F-86 Sabres are from the 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing. At all altitudes, the F-86 had a higher terminal velocity than the communist MiG jet aircraft, thereby giving the F-86 the advantage in a sustained deep dive and a distinct advantage in air battles.

Supplying Critical War Material



Three Far East Air Force C-119 Flying Boxcars make landfall on the eastern coast of Korea near a zone where thousands of pounds of ammunition, rations, medical supplies and wire were later dropped to Republic of Korea forces.

Bomber Strike



Twin masses of bombs plunge earthward from the bomb bays of a B-29 Superfortress.

To the Rescue



Crewmen from the U.S. Coast Guard perform rescue operations at sea in a PBM Mariner seaplane.

Preparing for the Mission

Members of the 159th Fighter-Bomber Squadron of the Florida Air National Guard prepare the F-84 Thunderjet for its next mission in Korea.



Returning Formation



F4U Corsairs returning from a combat mission over North Korea circle the USS Boxer (CV-21) as they wait for planes in the next strike to be launched from her flight deck.

Airlift

Combat-ready U.S. Marines from the 1st Marine Division board a helicopter bound for the front lines. The Sikorsky HRS-1s were a part of HMR-161, the first Marine helicopter transport squadron to see combat.



Mission Complete

F9F Pantherjets from the aircraft carrier, USS Bon Homme Richard (CV-31), head back to base after striking military targets in North Korea.

